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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

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ADDRESS TO:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231Attorney Docket No. 99,841
First Named Inventor Choong, et al
Express Mail No. EL028729783US
Total Pages 29

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

1. ☒ Transmittal Form with Fee
2. ☒ Specification (including claims and abstract) [Total Pages 16]
3. ☒ Drawings [Total Sheets 1]
4. ☒ Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 3]
 - a. ☐ Newly executed
 - b. ☐ Copy from prior application

[Note Boxes 5 and 17 below]

 - i. ☐ Deletion of Inventor(s) Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application
5. ☐ Incorporation by Reference: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.
6. ☐ Microfiche Computer Program
7. ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
 - a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
 - b. ☐ Paper Copy
 - c. ☐ Statement verifying above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

8. ☒ Assignment Papers
9. ☐ Power of Attorney
10. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
11. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - ☐ PTO-1449 Form
 - ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
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14. ☐ Small Entity Statement(s)
 - ☐ Enclosed
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15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
16. ☒ Other: Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail

17. If a **CONTINUING APPLICATION**, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:
☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part of prior application Serial No.

APPLICATION FEES

APPLICATION FEES				
BASIC FEE				\$760.00
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	
Total Claims	6	-20=	x \$18.00	\$
Independent Claims	3	- 3=	x \$78.00	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Dependent Claims(s) if applicable				+\$270.00
Total of above calculations =				\$
Reduction by 50% for filing by small entity =				\$()
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment fee if applicable				+ \$40.00
TOTAL =				\$800.00

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

Attorney Docket No. 99,841

18. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 13-2490 in the amount of \$.
19. ☒ A check in the amount of \$800.00 is enclosed.
20. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit overpayments or charge any additional fees of the following types to Deposit Account No. 13-2490:
- a. ☒ Fees required under 37 CFR 1.16.
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 - c. ☒ Fees required under 37 CFR 1.18.
21. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby generally authorized under 37 CFR 1.136(a)(3) to treat any future reply in this or any related application filed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.53 requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request therefor, and the Commissioner is hereby specifically authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 13-2490 for any fee that may be due in connection with such a request for an extension of time.

22. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Name	McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff
Address	32 nd Floor, 300 South Wacker Drive
City, State, Zip	Chicago, Illinois 60606
23. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED	
Name	John J. McDonnell Reg. No. 26,949
Signature	
Date	November 12, 1999

UTILITY (Rev. 11/18/97)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"
(NEW PATENT APPLICATION)

Case No. 99,841

Express Mail No. EL028729783US

Deposited November 12, 1999

I hereby certify that the attached correspondence, identified below, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" under 37 CFR § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Asst. Commissioner for Patents, Box New Application, Washington, DC 20231.

By: Frank Choe
(person actually depositing)

Patent Application of: Vi-En Choong, Song Shi & George Maracas

Title: Macroporous Media for Biological Application

X Patent Application (16 pages, including claims)

X Drawings (1 sheets)

X Postcard

X Transmittal Letter

X Check in the amount of \$800.00

X Other: Assignment and Declaration and Power of Attorney

Attorney Docket No.: 99,841

[illegible]

INVENTORS: Vi-En Choong
3730 S. Mill Ave., Apt. B111
Tempe, AZ 85282
A Citizen of Malaysia

Song Shi
4521 W. Gold Poppy Way
Phoenix, AZ 85044
A Citizen of the Peoples Republic of China

George Maracas
2613 E. Bighorn Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85048
A Citizen of the USA

ASSIGNED TO: MOTOROLA, INC.
1303 E. Algonquin Road
Schaumburg, IL 60196

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention is in the field biochips with arrays of porous polymer pads for
5 analyzing biological samples.

2. BACKGROUND OF THE ART

A biochip array is generally comprised of a solid substrate, a supporting matrix
and a variety of biomolecule probes immobilized on the supporting matrix. When the
10 biochip is exposed to a target that recognizes one of the immobilized probes, a binding
event occurs, which results in a change of an electromagnetic signal such as fluorescence
or impedance.

In addition to glass, porous polymer pads, especially polyacrylamide gel pads,
have been used as supporting matrices for the attachment of bioactive specimens in a
15 variety of biochip arrays (see US Patents: 5,552,270; 5,616,478; 5,736,257; 5,741,700).
Compared to glass, porous polymers have a much higher probe loading capacity owing to
their porous three-dimension nature.

In conventional polyacrylamide gel pads, the porosity is somewhat limited. The
maximum reported pore size for polyacrylamide gel pads is only around 0.6 micron with
20 60% crossing linker (J. Biochem and Biophys. Methods, 4, 347 (1981). The gel pads
with 5% crosslinker (acrylamide/bisacrylamide ratio 19:1) have an average pore size less
than 0.1 micron. The pore size is generally believed to be too small for target DNA

greater than a couple of hundred base pairs to diffuse into. Thus most binding events will only occur on the surface of the gel pads just as in the case of using glass as the supporting matrix. It is especially true for detection that requires some enzymatic reactions since enzyme molecules are generally much bigger in size and will not diffuse into small pores. To take advantage of the high loading capacity of porous polymer pads, it is necessary to have the ability to control the pore size distribution so that the target molecules can easily diffuse into the porous pads to be detected by the immobilized probes.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention involves the improvement of arrays of porous polymer pads on a solid support used in biological assays. The improvement involves freeze drying the porous polymer pads on solid support to increase the pore size. Thus it is an object of the invention to provide an array of macroporous polymer pads having specific binding agents such as DNA, RNA or polypeptides for use in biological assays. The invention provides for enhanced sensitivity by incorporating a larger amount of specific binding substance. Typically, an array of porous polymer pads on a solid support is frozen at liquid nitrogen temperatures and solvent is removed by sublimation of reduced pressure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Figure 1A is a top view of an optical image of a porous polymer gel pad before freeze drying;

Figure 1B is a top view of an optical image of a porous polymer gel pad after freeze drying.

Figure 2A is a cross section view scanning-electron microscope image Figure 1B; and

5 Figure 2B is a top view of Figure 1B.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Freeze-drying is based on the principal that under the right conditions, a solid material such as ice can change directly into a gas without first passing through a liquid
10 phase. This process, called sublimation, gradually removes all ice from food, other biological matter, organic material such as polymers and even from inorganic substances such as ceramics.

Freeze-drying technique has been used to study polyacrylamide gels. In the middle of 70s, two publications involving freeze-drying and critical point-drying under
15 conditions that prevented the gel matrix from shrinking during dehydration, scanning-electron microscopy revealed a spongelike closed cell structure in polyacrylamide gels (Z. Blank and A. C. reimschuessel, J. Mater. Sci. 9(1974) 1815; R. Rouchel and M. D. Bager, Anal. Biochem., 68(1975) 415.). To study the porosity of polyacrylamide gels, Rouchel et.al (R. Rouchel, R. L. Steere, and E. F. Erbe, J. Chromatography, 166 (1978)
20 563-575) freeze-etched a slab gel cut from 0.2 mm thick gel sheets. By freeze-etching the slab gel and depositing platinum and carbon films on the freeze-etched surface, replicas

of the poyacrylamide gels were prepared. Under transmission-electron microscopy, submicron size of pores was observed in the polyacrylamide gel pads.

Polyacrylamide biochips are made by selective photopolymerization of materials such as acrylamides. The general techniques are described in U.S. Patents 5,552,270; 5,616,478; 5,736,257 and 5,741,700. These techniques provide an array of porous polymer gel pads. These porous polymer gel pads are functionalized and probes, such as DNA probes, are bound to the polymer pad. The porous polymer gel pads are then freeze dried according to the present invention. Freeze drying can be by freezing the array of porous gel pads to 0°C to liquid nitrogen temperature and then removing water under vacuum.

The macroporous polymer matrix of the invention was prepared by: (1) fabricating a conventional porous polymer matrix and freezing drying the conventional matrix. The freeze drying results in an increased pore size from less than 1 micron in diameter to 5 to 10 microns in diameter.

EXAMPLE 1

The following procedure was used for preparation standard biochip array.

Cleaning Procedure for Microscope Slides

In an acid hood, pour 100 ml of double distilled water into a 500 mL glass beaker. Add
5 30 mL of hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) to the beaker, and then, very carefully add 70 mL of
concentrated sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4) to the beaker. Pour the solution into a small
polypropylene bucket or pan. Place 1" x 3" Corning brand microscope slides in a
polypropylene electronic wafer case and very carefully place the case in the acid/peroxide
solution. Allow the microscope slides to soak in the solution for 5 minutes and then
10 remove them the solution. Transfer the wafer case to a large beaker filled with double
distilled water. Remove the wafer case form the beaker and pour the water down the
drain. Fill the beaker with double distilled water and rinse each slide (individually) under
a stream of fresh double distilled water and dry each slide under a stream of nitrogen
(only handle the microscope slides by their edges using forceps and latex gloves). If
15 spotting is present on any microscope slide, rinse it again under a stream of distilled
water until no spots are present. Place the microscope slides in a microscope slide box.
Close the box and place it in a clean, dessicator cabinet.

Treatment of Microscope Slides with Methacryloxypropyltrimethoxysilane (MAPS):

20 In a chemical fume hood, prepare a 10% solution of methacryloxypropyltrimethoxysilane
(MAPS) by adding 10 mL in dry methanol. Add the solution to a large Kettle reaction
flask in a chemical fume hood. The Kettle flask should be equipped with a reflux
condenser, a drying tube filled with calcium sulfate, thermometer, and a heating mantle.

Add 20 clean and dry microscope slides to the Kettle flask. Seal the Kettle flask and heat to 50 degrees C. Maintain the temperature of the solution of Kettle flask Heat the kettle flask at to proceed for 40 minutes, turn off the heating mantle, and allow the solution to cool to ambient.

5

Transfer the microscope slides from the MAPS solution and immediately immerse them into a solution of electronic's industry grade isopropyl alcohol. Remove the microscope slides from the isopropyl alcohol solution individually and rinse each of them under a stream of fresh isopropyl alcohol. Immediately dry the microscope slides under a stream of dry, filtered nitrogen to prevent spotting. If spotting is present, an additional isopropyl alcohol rinse will be required. Store the MAPS derivatized microscope slides in a clean, dry environment in a closed microscope slide case.

10

Polyacrylamide Biochip Polymerization:

15

Acrylamide/bisacrylamide/aldehyde2 solution: In a chemical fume hood, make up a quantity of aldehyde copolymer 2 mix solution by adding 50 uL of aldehyde copolymer 2 to 400 uL of sterile, distilled water in a sterile 1.7 mL microcentrifuge tube. To a sterile, 10 ml polyethylene conical centrifuge tube, add 0.475g of acrylamide and 0.025g of bisacrylamide (19:1) from Gibco. Add 6 ml of 1X TBE buffer and 4 ml of glycerol (using a 1000 uL pipetman). Glycerol is viscous, so in order to ensure that all of the glycerol is added to the solution, wash the pipette tip several times by repeatedly pulling and pushing the acrylamide solution into and out of the pipette tip. In the fume hood, add 320 uL of the aldehyde copolymer 2 mix solution to the acrylamide solution and, using a Vortex

20

Genie, mix the solution thoroughly. Pour the solution into a 10 mL disposable syringe, push the solution through a nylon or teflon 0.2 um syringe filter, and collect the filtrate in a sterile, 10 mL polyethylene conical centrifuge tube.

- 5 In a chemical fume hood, for each biochip, add 100uL of the acrylamide/bisacrylamide/aldehyde2 solution, 0.4 uL of 1 mM methylene blue, and 1.2 uL TEMED to a sterile, 1.7 mL microcentrifuge tube. Cover the lid of the microcentrifuge tube with a perforated cap and pull 600 torr of negative pressure on the solution for 5 minutes.

10

Place two 0.001" (approximately 25 um) plastic shims on the metal side of a quartz-TiCr photolithography mask for gel pad array. Using a pipetteman , spread 100 uL of the degassed acrylamide solution onto the metal surface of the mask. Carefully place a MAPS treated microscope slide onto the mask, taking care to prevent the accumulation of
15 air bubbles between the mask and the microscope slide. Clamp the mask to the microscope slide using four small black binder clips.

- Place the mask-microscope slide sandwich mask side up onto a non-reflective, small black platform under the UV, light of about 200-300nm which should be equilibrated to
20 40°C, and allow the slide to heat up for 1 minute. Expose the mask at 18mW/cm² for 7 minutes.

After 7 minutes, remove the substrate from the DUC. remove the binder clips, and immerse the substrate in distilled water. Using a single edge razor blade, carefully pry the biochip away from the surface of the mask. Soak the biochip in distilled water for 5 minutes, rinse under a stream of sterile, distilled water for one minute, and allow the
5 biochip to dry under ambient conditions in a clean, dry environment. Store the biochip in a covered microscope slide container in a clean, dry environment.

DNA Hybridizations

Biochip Activation:

10 Place the biochip in a Wheaton jar filled with 2% TFA. After 10 minutes, rinse the biochip under a stream of distilled H₂O for one minute. Place the biochip in a Wheaton jar filled with 100mM NaIO₄. After 15 minutes, rinse the biochip under a stream of distilled H₂O for one minute. Place the biochip in a Wheaton jar filled distilled H₂O and let stand 15 minutes. Rinse the biochip under a stream of distilled H₂O for one minute,
15 dry under a stream of dry nitrogen, and place it in clean, dry environment and dry to ambient humidity.

In a chemical fume hood, place the biochip in a Wheaton joar filled with 2% Repel Silane. After 10 minutes, rinse the biochip under a stream of 95% ethanol, then rinse it
20 immediately under a stream of distilled H₂O (do not permit the ethanol to evaporate from the surface of the biochip). Dry the biochip under a gentle stream of dry, filtered N₂. Biochips should be utilized within one day following activation.

Probe Dispensing

Using a Packard eight head nanofluidic dispensing tool, dispense one 300uM drop of 5' amino labeled, 3' Cy3 labeled positive control oligonucleotide (dissolved in sterile, distilled H₂O) onto each 100 x 100 um positive control array element location. Using a Packard eight head nanofluidic dispensing tool, dispense one 300uM drop of 5' amino labeled negative control oligonucleotide (dissolved in sterile, distilled H₂O) onto each 100 x 100 um negative control array element location. Using a Packard eight head nanofluidic dispensing tool, dispense one 300uM drop of 5' amino labeled oligonucleotide probe (dissolved in sterile, distilled H₂O) onto each 100 x 100 um array element location. Place the biochip to dry in a clean, dry environment and allow it to stand for two hours.

Probe Stabilization & Capping

Using a separatory funnel, wash 100 mL of HPLC grade CHCl₃ with two 100 mL volumes of 0.2 M dibasic sodium phosphate. To 40 mL of the CHCl₃, add 650 uL of 0.1 M borane-pyridine complex and mix the solution well.

Place the biochip array side up in a glass petri dish. Carefully pour the borane-pyridine solution over the biochip until the array elements are completely covered. Carefully overlay the borane-pyridine solution with 0.2 M dibasic sodium phosphate (approximately 45 mL). Cover the petri dish and allow the biochip to stand under the borane-pyridine solution for 2 hours at ambient temperature. After 2 hours, carefully remove the aqueous layer with the aid of a Pasture pipette.

Remove the biochip and carefully rinse it under a gentle stream of sterile, distilled H₂O. Rinse the biochip under a gentle stream of 95% ethanol. Rinse with H₂O and ethanol two times; finish with a final rinse of distilled H₂O. Dry the biochip under a gentle stream of
5 dry, filtered N₂.

Make up 50 mL of 0.1 M sodium borohydride solution by dissolving powdered sodium borohydride in distilled H₂O. Pour 45 mL of the solution into a 50 mL polyethylene conical centrifuge vial. Place the biochip in the vial and let stand at room temperature 15
10 minutes with the cap loosened. Remove the biochip from the solution and rinse under a gentle stream of sterile distilled H₂O. Place the biochip in a fresh 50 mL, polyethylene, conical centrifuge vial. Fill the vial with 45 mL of sterile distilled H₂O. Seal the vial and heat at 60 °C for 30 minutes. Remove the biochip from the vial and analyze the fluorescence of the biochip to evaluate the intensity of the positive control and the
15 background fluorescence level. Place the biochip in a clean, dark, dry environment and allow it to dry to ambient humidity.

The conventional porous polymer gel pad array was immersed in de-ionized water for half an hour to yield a completely hydrated gel pad array. The hydrated gel pad array
20 should swell about 3-6 times as compared to the dehydrated dry gel pad array. The hydrated gel pad array was then instantly frozen by dipping into liquid nitrogen. The frozen gel pad array was then transferred into a vacuum chamber chilled to below -25 C.

The vacuum chamber was then evacuated by a turbo pump to 2×10^{-6} torr and maintained at the vacuum and temperature (< -25 C) for 10 hours until the gel pad array is dried.

Hybridization result comparison

A hybridization comparison study was carried out on a standard gel pad and a freeze dried gel pad with the protocol outlined below. The target is a segment of gene from human Y chromosome (334 bp). The relative fluorescent intensity is recorded with a Fluorescent Scanner from General Scanning with laser power of 65% and PMT of 60%. As shown in the table, the relative fluorescent intensity from freeze-dried porous polymer gel pads is almost twice of that from conventional gel pads. The signal to noise ratio has also been improved by 5-6 times.

Gel Pads	Freeze-dried	Standard
Relative Integrated Fluorescent Intensity	391,859	222,908
Signal/Noise Ratio	46	8

Hybridization Protocol For 334 bp

Reagents:

20X SSC

PN3 probe (5'-L,TAA,CTC,TAA,TTT,ACC,TCC,CC-3', where L is an amine linker)

Hybridization Chamber

Gel Pad Array

MJ Thermal Cycler with Tower Alpha Unit

- Dispense and attach 300 uM of PN3 probe on gel pads for comparison purpose leaving some blank on.
- Make up a hybridization solution (0.28 uM of Target) in 4X SSC buffer.

- c. Place the array slide on the hybridization chamber
- d. Pipette 60 uL of the target solution into the hybridization chamber, seal the opening with aluminum adhesive tape.
- e. Place the hybridization chamber on the thermal cycler tower and use the following
5 cycle: 94 C, 3 min; 65 C, 5 min; 60 C, 5 min; 55 C, 5 min; 40 C, 12 hours; 4 C, forever (until removed)
- f. Remove the array slide and rinse briefly at room temperature with 1X SSC buffer and place the array into a 1X SSC solution in a conical tube, and let it rotate at room temperature for 30 min using rotisserie.
- 10 g. Wash the array one time with deionized water and then analyze fluorescence on scanner.

The above examples are intended to illustrate the present invention and not to limit it in spirit or scope.

What is claimed is:

1. In an array of porous polymer pads on a solid surface, the improvement comprising freeze drying the array of porous polymer pads to increase the pore size of the porous polymer.

2. An array of porous polymer pads on a solid surface wherein the porous polymer pads are freeze dried and have increased pore size in the porous polymer after freeze drying.

3. The array of claim 2 wherein a specific binding substance is covalently linked to the porous polymer.

4. The array of claim 3 wherein the specific binding substance is a polynucleotide.

5. A method for freeze drying an array of porous polymer pads on a solid support comprising:

- a. freezing the porous polymer array on the solid support and
- b. drying the porous polymer array on the solid support at reduced pressure.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the porous polymer pads are frozen at liquid nitrogen temperatures and dried under vacuum to remove water by sublimation.

[illegible]

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FIGURE 1A

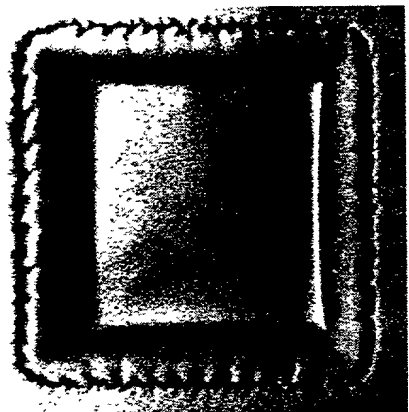
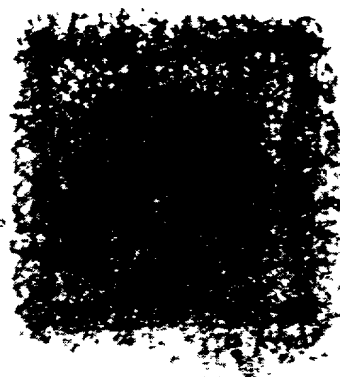


FIGURE 1B



(b)

FIGURE 2A

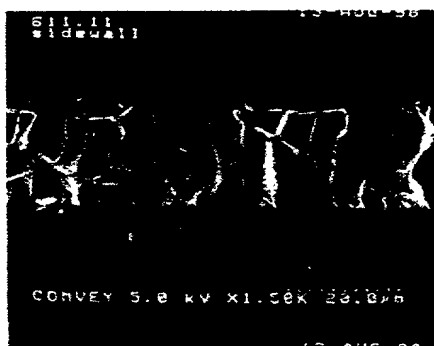


FIGURE 2B



**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

MACROPOROUS MEDIA FOR BIOLOGICAL APPLICATION

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following space is checked:

☒ was filed on _____ as United States Application Serial Number _____

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s):

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Day/Month/Year Filed</u>
1.			
2.			

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

	<u>Application Number</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
1.		
2.		

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

	<u>Application Number</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Status: patented, pending, abandoned</u>
1.			
2.			

I hereby appoint the following attorneys and agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Denis A. Berntsen	Reg. No. 26707	Anthoula Pomrening (agent)	Reg. No. 38805
John J. McDonnell	Reg. No. 26949	George I. Lee	Reg. No. 39269
Daniel A. Boehnen	Reg. No. 28399	James M. McCarthy	Reg. No. 39296
Bradley J. Hulbert	Reg. No. 30130	Jeremy Noe (agent)	Reg. No. 40104
Paul H. Berghoff	Reg. No. 30243	Sean M. Sullivan	Reg. No. 40191
Grantland G. Drutchas	Reg. No. 32565	Amir N. Penn	Reg. No. 40767
Steven J. Sarussi	Reg. No. 32784	Patrick J. Halloran (agent)	Reg. No. 41053
David M. Frischkorn	Reg. No. 32833	Joshua R. Rich	Reg. No. 41269
James C. Gumina	Reg. No. 32898	Thomas E. Wettermann	Reg. No. 41523
A. Blair Hughes	Reg. No. 32901	Vernon W. Francissen	Reg. No. 41762
Thomas A. Fairhall	Reg. No. 34591	Robert J. Irvine	Reg. No. 41865
Emily Miao	Reg. No. 35285	Richard A. Machonkin	Reg. No. 41962
Kevin E. Noonan	Reg. No. 35303	David S. Harper	Reg. No. 42636
Leif R. Sigmond, Jr.	Reg. No. 35680	Stephen Lesavich	Reg. No. 43749
Lawrence H. Aaronson	Reg. No. 35818	Enrique Perez	Reg. No. 43853
Matthew J. Sampson	Reg. No. 35999	Marcus J. Thymian	Reg. No. 43954
Curt J. Whitenack	Reg. No. 36054	S. Richard Carden (agent)	Reg. No. 44588
Christopher M. Cavan	Reg. No. 36475	Mark Chael (agent)	Reg. No. 44601
Michael S. Greenfield	Reg. No. 37142	Stephen H. Docter	Reg. No. 44659
Roger P. Zimmerman	Reg. No. 38670		

Address all telephone calls to John J. McDonnell at (312) 913-2110.

Address all correspondence to MCDONNELL BOEHNEN HULBERT & BERGHOFF, 300 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606 USA.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of first inventor: Song Shi

Inventor's signature: [Signature]
Residence: 4521 E. Gold Poppy Way, Phoenix, AZ
Citizenship: Peoples Republic of China
Post Office Address: 4521 E. Gold Poppy Way, Phoenix, AZ

Date: 11/8/99

Full name of second joint inventor: George Maracas

Inventor's signature: [Signature]
Residence: 2613 E. Bighom Avenue, Phoenix, AZ
Citizenship: USA
Post Office Address: 2613 E. Bighom Avenue, Phoenix, AZ

Date: 11/9/99

Full name of third joint inventor: Vi-En Choong

Inventor's signature: Choong Vi-S
Residence: 3380 W. Genoa Way, Chandler, AZ
Citizenship: Malaysia
Post Office Address: 3380 W. Genoa Way, Chandler, AZ

Date: 11/9/99